Amendments to the Claims:

1. (previously presented) A method of producing a high-strength, low-shrinkage synthetic flat yarn, comprising the steps of

melt spinning a plurality of advancing filaments from a molten polymer;

cooling and combining the filaments to form an advancing multifilament yarn;

drawing the advancing yarn;

compressing the advancing and drawn yarn while heating the yarn to form an advancing plug at an increased temperature;

disentangling the plug under a tension so as to withdraw the yarn from the plug in a heated condition and with the tension being sufficient to remove any crimp and form an advancing flat yarn; and

winding the flat yarn into a package.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the molten polymer for melt spinning the filaments is extruded from a polyester.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the compressing step occurs with the aid of a medium, which advances the yarn for forming the plug.

4. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein the medium consists of hot air or hot vapor.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the flat yarn is additionally drawn after disentangling the plug and before it is wound into a package.

6. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein while disentangling the plug, the position of the plug end is sensed, and that as a function of the position of the plug end, the temperature of the medium is controlled.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein while disentangling the plug, the position of the plug end is sensed, and that as a function of the position of the plug end, the withdrawal speed of the flat yarn from the plug is controlled.

8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein before being compressed, the yarn is guided by a godet, and that the ratio of the takeup speed for winding the flat yarn to the circumferential speed of the godet is greater than about 0.85 to 1.

9. (currently amended) A method of producing a high-strength, low-shrinkage synthetic flat yarn, comprising the steps of

melt spinning at least one advancing filament from a molten polymer;

cooling the one filament to form an advancing yarn;

drawing the advancing yarn;

compressing the advancing and drawn yarn while heating the yarn to form an advancing plug at an increased temperature;

disentangling the plug under a tension so as to withdraw the yarn from the plug in a heated condition and with the tension being sufficient to remove any ~~significant~~ crimp and form an advancing flat yarn; and

winding the flat yarn into a package.

10.-16. (cancelled)